

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T TOKYO 15263

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, XF

SUBJECT: CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON GOJ MIDDLE  
EAST STATEMENT

REF: TOKYO 15620

1. DURING MEETING LATE IN DAY ON NOVEMBER 22, FONOFF AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRGEN OKAWARA INFORMED ME THAT THERE HAD BEEN CHANGE IN RESPONSE WHICH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO AUTHORIZED TO GIVE AT TIME ANNOUNCEMENT GOJ MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MEANING OF FINAL SENTENCE REFERRING TO POSSIBLE QTE RECONSIDERATION UNQTE OF GOJ POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, INSTEAD OF RESPONSE REPORTED REFTEL PARA 3, NIKAIDO WAS AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND THAT QTE IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ABOUT MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN AT SOME FUTURE DATE UNQTE. (OHIRA'S RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, AS REPORTED BY ASAHI, WAS QTE WE SHALL HAVE TO DECIDE ON MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM NOW ON AND WE DO NOT NOW HAVE ANY SPECIFICS UNDER CONSIDERATION UNQTE. SAME PAPER REPORTED NAKAIDO'S RESPONSE AS QTE THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH DEPENDS UPON DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION FROM NOW ON AND IT WOULD  
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NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT AT THIS TIME UNQTE.) OKAWARA SAID THAT KURODA FOLLOWED SAME LINE WITH FOREIGN PRESS BUT APPARENTLY DID INDICATE THAT GOJ HOPED TO AVOID TAKING ANY FURTHER STEPS.

2. OKAWARA EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO MAKE STATEMENT THAT GOJ HAD NO PLAN TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE OF CONCERN THAT TO DO SO MIGHT UNDERCUT HOPED-FOR FAVORABLE IMPACT OF GOJ STATEMENT ON ARAB GOVERNMENTS. (OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS, JAPANESE PRESS HAS REPORTED VARIETY OF STATEMENTS BY SAUDI VMINPET YAMANI TO EFFECT THAT JAPAN SHOULD BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IF IT WISHES TO AVOID FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN OIL SUPPLY.)

3. OKAWARA STATED, HOWEVER, GOJ POLICY, CONFIRMED BY HIGHEST LEVEL IN GOVERNMENT, IS THAT JAPAN WILL NOT TAKE STEP OF SEVERING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE STRESSED THAT THIS INFORMATION IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND WAS BEING CONVEYED ONLY TO USG. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY CONCERNING GOJ POLICY ON FUTURE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, OKAWARA STATED THAT THIS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT HE PROMISED TO INFORM ME IF ANY TOP-LEVEL DECISION REACHED.

4. OKAWARA ALSO INFORMED ME THAT KEY GOJ OFFICIALS CONCERNED WILL MEET ON NOVEMBER 23 TO ASSESS ARAB REACTION TO GOJ STATEMENT AND TO CONSIDER, IN LIGHT THAT REACTION, ADVISABILITY OF SENDING SPECIAL ENVOYS TO ARAB STATES.

5. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN EXPRESS REGRET THAT GOJ FELT COMPELLED ISSUE STATEMENT WHICH WE BELIEVED WOULD MAKE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT MORE DIFFICULT. I ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY TO MAKE ANY FURTHER MOVES AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY OUTCOME OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO MOVE SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST TOWARD JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT, AT SAME TIME  
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RELIEVING PRESSURE ON OIL SUPPLY. I URGED THAT AT SUCH TIME AS GOJ MIGHT CONSIDER ANY FURTHER STEP, IT CONSULT WITH USG WELL IN ADVANCE SO THAT OUR VIEWS CAN BE WEIGHTED CAREFULLY. OKAWARA STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OUR KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS.  
SHOESMITH

SECRET

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